undp

update

Published by the Division of Public Affairs
United Nations Development Programme
One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Vol. 7, no.12, 20 June 1994

Development programmes survive despite renewed fighting in Afghanistan

In spite of renewed fighting in and around Kabul, Afghanistan, UNDP programmes continue to operate in the country. The recent conflicts have destroyed the remains of the civil service and functioning government. The highest priority for the United Nations, apart from contributing to the peace process, is the mobilization of emergency humanitarian assistance, especially for the estimated one million people who are internally displaced.

Meanwhile, the assistance programmes of development agencies, including UNDP, continue to operate. Over the last two years, the focus of this assistance has been directed almost exclusively toward rural development, with the objective of helping peaceful areas of the country to improve economic production.

UNDP funds available for programmes in 1992-96 total $80 million. Due to the continued volatile political and military situation and the absence of a broad-based, representative government, UNDP has no Country Programme per se in Afghanistan. It has therefore set expenditure limits of $16 million each year on its Afghanistan activities. All new projects and major revisions must be reviewed by UNDP headquarters and receive specific endorsement by the UNDP Administrator before final approval and implementation.

Michael von der Schulenburg/UNDP

UNDP assistance in Afghanistan has been directed toward rural development. Molding mud bricks for new homes in Warsaj.

In spite of these constraints, UNDP has programmed resources for two large rural rehabilitation projects which constitute the backbone of its assistance in the country. These projects will restore self-sufficiency to Afghanistan's rural population by providing seeds and fertilizers, and rehabilitating irrigation systems and livestock production. The two projects operate in all areas of Afghanistan, except Kabul and the central region.

Activities are largely implemented through local non-governmental organizations, in close cooperation with village councils and political factions that hold power in the respective districts in which the projects are operating.

Another on-going, UNDP-financed assistance programme concentrates on providing shelter to returnees and internally displaced populations in the southern parts of the country.

In the future, UNDP's programme will likely focus on continued rural rehabilitation, with increased emphasis on strengthening the role of rural communities, including increased participation, and on the mobilization of internal and external resources.

UNDP has also financed and commissioned the preparation of a comprehensive action plan for rehabilitation, for use should the situation improve in the country. The plan will form the basis for a donor conference for Afghanistan. The plan captures the most current information available on Afghanistan, and is presently the only tool available for the international community to ensure that future assistance addresses the country's highest needs and priorities.

In this issue:

Guinea targets human development — Preventive measures to fight HIV/AIDS in Nepal — Saving Asia's rhinos — Namibia bolsters aid coordination — Protecting Lake Tanganyika's biodiversity

update

Guinea targets human development concerns

UNDP is supporting a major initiative to help Guinea identify and target areas of primary concern for sustainable human development. The initiative will include the drafting of a government policy framework paper on human development, the formulation of a human development programme and the organization of a donors' conference for formal adoption of the policy paper and programme.

Guinea remains one of the poorest countries in the world despite significant natural resources. According to the Human Development Index (HDI) in the *1994 Human Development Report*, Guinea ranks last among 173 countries. Responding to the country's low HDI ranking, the government launched a Human Development Initiative with the principal aim of rapidly improving human development in the country.

The two principles guiding the programme's operational activities are poverty reduction and promotion of popular participation. The first stage of the HDI initiative will diagnose the human development concerns in Guinea focusing on these two specific areas. Public spending patterns will also be examined in order to identify national financial sources to meet these goals.

A human development policy framework paper and resulting programmes will aid the reallocation of national and international resources in favour of priority human development areas. Furthermore, these documents will constitute a formal expression of the political will of Guinean authorities to directly address human development issues.

The Government of Guinea is supporting a programme to address the country's human development concerns. Children playing in the streets of Conakry.

Claire Hart/UNDP

Nepal takes preventive measures against HIV/AIDS

The Government of Nepal has prepared a national plan for HIV and AIDS prevention and control. The plan gives priority to preventing further transmission of HIV and reducing the social and economic impact of AIDS on individuals, families and communities. It stresses the need to take immediate preventive actions to avoid an epidemic that could burden the country's fragile health system and the economic situation of local communities.

UNDP's Office for Project Services is providing support to improve the capacity of local authorities in six districts to implement effective HIV/AIDS prevention and education activities. UNDP will assist in developing national policies to ensure a supportive and humane environment for people affected by the disease. Working with the relevant ministries, it will help design policies and prevention strategies that can be incorporated into the programmes of the Ministries of Education, Labour, Tourism, Transport and Local Development.

Innovative approaches for reaching remote communities with HIV/AIDS messages are required in many parts of the country where the roads are inadequate and the health and social services are limited. The UNDP activities will create an opportunity for the creation of locally-based prevention programmes. Implicit in the project is the recognition that effective education programmes will depend on small networks of formal and informal community leaders, influential women and traditional healers.

Integration of the HIV/AIDS prevention messages within established community development efforts will also be stressed, particularly in programmes dealing with health, literacy, forestry, women's development, economic development, agriculture and formal education. Project support will be channelled through the districts, for community-based mini-projects. Support will include technical expertise, training, and education materials.

Plans for saving the Rhinos of South East Asia

UNDP is providing assistance, under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), towards the preparation for a large-scale conservation programme for the Rhinos of South East Asia. Two species of rhinoceros in the region — *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* and *Rhinoceros unicornis* — are among the most threatened in the world. Both global and national conservation strategies and action plans have been developed for protection of these rhinos. This GEF project will assist in initiating

READEX
PICHE

and implementing the conservation strategies for these species.

This preparatory GEF project will help identify means to launch the highest priority initiatives within existing action plans. Such plans include a global conservation strategy for Asian Rhinos, a global action plan for Sumatran Rhinos, an Indonesian rhino conservation action plan, and a Malaysian Rhino conservation plan. It is envisaged that the final programme will define protected areas which should be targeted, help develop institutional capacity for carrying out a conservation strategy, establish rhino protection and management units in each country, undertake additional surveys, and develop a long-term funding plan for rhino conservation in South East Asia.

The GEF supports projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving biological diversity, protecting international waters, and reducing ozone layer depletion. It is co-managed by the World Bank, the UN Environment Programme and UNDP.

Namibia strengthens its aid coordination

UNDP will be supporting the Government of Namibia in preparing key documentation and organizing the country's first Round Table meeting. The Round Table process enables representatives of a developing country to present their development strategies, policies and programmes to the international community and to mobilise the necessary technical and financial support to implement them. The Round Table process also builds national capacity in aid management by ensuring that the national government effectively leads the process.

UNDP is providing assistance to Namibia to strengthen the country's aid coordination mechanisms, and to improve the capacity to mobilize and manage its increasing flows of external resources. Since independence in March 1990, Namibia's development assistance more than doubled to reach nearly $140 million in 1992, with the number of donors supporting the country increasing from 14 to 26.

The Round Table process will help mobilize further external resources required to implement Namibia's development strategies and programme and make the most effective use of these resources in the medium and longer term.

Protecting the rich biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika

A $10 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme will address pollution control and other measures to protect the biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika, which possesses perhaps the highest biodiversity of any lake on earth. The lake plays an important role in the economies of Burundi, Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia. Its basin faces serious environmental threats from urban and industrial pollution and from excessive amounts of suspended sediment which enter the water as a result of watershed deforestation and improper agricultural practices.

Protection of Lake Tanganyika and its biological diversity requires an improved understanding of the lake's ecosystem and the development of a long-term management plan. This five-year GEF programme, which will involve the four countries bordering the lake, will help devise a long-term strategy and management framework for the use and preservation of the lake's natural resources.

The GEF, run jointly by UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme, addresses global environmental activities in four areas: prevention of global warming; conservation of biological diversity; protection of international waters; and reduction of ozone layer depletion.

Elements of the Lake Tanganyika programme will include surveys of deforestation and erosion conditions, and the impact of sediment and chemical pollution on the lake basin. At least four underwater reserves will be established as protected areas. Management plans for these reserves will be developed. Community organizations and NGOs will be involved in providing information on the project to schools and teacher groups. A strategic plan for the integrated management of the whole lake basin will be designed.

Approved projects:

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Nigeria — National Statistical and Information System — The ready availability of up-to-date socio-economic data is a critical factor in any country's capacity for sound economic management. UNDP will provide consultants, expert services and training required for updating data and improving available information that is vital for Nigeria's national development strategies and socio-economic management. UNDP will help increase access of current and potential users of the national statistical system and improve the managerial capabilities of statistical offices.

UNDP contribution: $4,858,000. Funds will finance personnel, training and equipment. Executed by the Federal Office of Statistics and implemented by the National Data Bank, Federal Ministries of Industry, Agricul-

ture and Education. (NIR/92/003)

Somalia — The UN Development Office for Somalia — UNDP will support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Somalia. This project will provide the framework for the operation of the UN Development Office in the country and will establish the basis for a sustainable pattern of long-term development. It will support regional and national Somali institutions to plan and manage the reconstruction and rehabilitation effort. The aim is to help lay the foundation for a national planning and economic management capacity.

UNDP contribution: $2,640,000. USAID and EU contribution: $5,276,000. Funds will finance international and national staff, training, administrative expenses and equipment. Executed and implemented by the Office for Project Services of UNDP. (SOM/94/002)

Editor: Cherie Hart
Tel: (212) 906 5304
Fax: (212) 906 5364

Boundaries and names shown on maps do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

Printed on recycled paper.

United Nations
Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017